

Our Mission...

The Columbia River Gorge Information and Education (I&E) staff work to promote public stewardship of fish and wildlife resources and support for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The I&E staff work for the Carson, Little White Salmon, Spring Creek and Willard National Fish Hatcheries (NFH) and the Lower Columbia River Fish Health Center.

Columbia River
Gorge National Fish
Hatchery Complex

Outreach Notes

2011



Who is the Complex?

Carson National Fish Hatchery
Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery
Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery
Willard National Fish Hatchery

Events

- HUGS (Help Us Grow Safely) Fair (700 contacts)
- Clark County Home & Garden Show (6,000 contacts)
- Wagons to Wildflowers (100 contacts)
- Warm Springs Seeds of Discovery Day (350 contacts)
- Water Jam 2011 (375 participants)
- Benton County Salmon Summit (400 contacts)
- Go Outside! Day (3,000 contacts)
- USFS Fish Education Day (500 participants)
- Hood River County Fair (400 contacts)
- Trout Lake Community Fair (75 contacts)
- Carson NFH Disabled Fishing Day (55 participants)
- Carson NFH Kid's Fishing Day (700 contacts)
- Spring Creek NFH Open House (325 visitors)

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Salmon in the Classroom 2010/2011

Total Tanks: 25

Students Taught: 950 (hard to judge really, as many schools open the tank up for the entire grade level or school to observe)

"I love this program!" "Why didn't we have this when I was young?" "My daughter talks about the salmon tank constantly, we love hearing all about this program!" These are just some of the many comments we hear about our Salmon in the Classroom program every year. Teachers, students and families have come to count on and love this program and all that it offers. Our office works closely with the teachers to provide quality lessons in conjunction with what they are teaching in their salmon unit. Math, science, art, social studies and reading are all incorporated into this unique learning opportunity.



Partnerships

- Benton County Conservation Dist.
- Boy Scouts of America
- Clark County Public Utilities
- Columbia Gorge Comm. College
- Columbia Gorge Ecology Institute
- Columbia Riverkeeper
- Conboy Lake NWR
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
- Educational Service District 112
- Educational Service District 74
- Grant Public Utility District
- Hood River Soil Conservation
- Klickitat County Solid Waste
- Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
- Mount Hood Community College
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Northwest Service Academy
- OR Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- Oregon State Parks
- Skamania County Solid Waste
- Stevenson Parks & Rec
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Forest Service
- Underwood Conservation District
- Vancouver Water Resources Education Center
- WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
- WA State Parks
- WA State University, Vancouver
- Whitson Elementary PTO
- Yakama Nation Fisheries Program

White Salmon River Experiential Learning Project

October 26, 2011

Condit Dam is Breached...

The return of a free-flowing White Salmon River has profound spiritual and cultural significance for the Yakama Nation, whose people have harvested fish and berries in the Basin for millennia. Recognizing the impact removal of Condit Dam will have on nearby communities, the Yakama Nation Fisheries Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group initiated the White Salmon River Experiential Learning Project. The Project educates local students about the history of Condit Dam and Northwestern Lake prior to its removal in October 2011.

The Project provides students with a balanced view of the choices and compromises involved in natural resource decisions and dam removal; and promotes analytical thinking about the important questions surrounding removal of Condit Dam and other natural resource issues.

Working Group partners conducted in-class presentations on the past, present and future of the White Salmon River and Condit Dam, and helped students conduct water quality monitoring and habitat surveys prior to dam breaching. These efforts, as well as habitat restoration involving Project students and volunteers, will continue after complete dam removal in August 2012. This project was funded by a Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant.



Schoolyard Habitat Update

Over 800 native plants that were planted in the newly developed Native Pollinator Garden last year are thriving. More than 500 students continue to utilize the outdoor learning spaces that were initiated over 5 years ago by the Service's Connecting People with Nature initiative.



Outdoor Learning:

• **Seeds of Discovery** Over 350 fourth graders gather at the Museum of the Warm Springs to learn about salmon, plants, animals, ecosystems and culture.

• **Bass Lake Field Day**

Kindergarten students from Whitson Elementary learn about stream, meadow and forest habitats in this unique opportunity offered in partnership with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers rangers.

• **Camp Wa-Ri-Ki** 5th graders from Carson Elementary gather for an overnight experience & learn about forest, meadow & stream habitats.

• **Water Jam** Students who participated in Salmon in the Classroom culminate their salmon unit with an extraordinary outdoor day of learning. Many partners make this unique opportunity a reality. The day is complete with a concert by Recycle Man and the Dumpster Divers.

• **Camp Cowabunga** 2nd graders from Whitson Elementary experience all facets of the outdoors. We teach lessons about pollinators, ethnobotany and lead a unique nature walk.

• **Conboy Lake NWR Field Day** 2nd graders from Whitson Elementary join our staff for an outdoor day of hiking and learning at the refuge. Students focus on pollinators and sharpen their sensory skills looking and listening for wildlife and learning about different refuge habitats.